

Bone Marrow Biopsy – Patient Information Sheet

What is Bone Marrow?

Bone marrow is the soft tissue inside your bones.

It makes blood cells:

- Red blood cells
- White blood cells
- Platelets

These help keep your body healthy.

What is a Bone Marrow Biopsy?

A bone marrow biopsy takes small samples from your bone marrow.

There are two parts:

- Aspiration: a small amount of liquid marrow is taken
- Biopsy: a tiny piece of bone and marrow is taken

The test takes about 10–15 minutes.

Please allow up to 45 minutes for your visit.

The samples are checked by a Pathologist, and results will be released directly to the referrer

Why Do I Need This Test?

This test helps doctors find and monitor blood conditions.

It is a common and safe procedure.

Are There Any Risks?

Problems are uncommon. You may have:

- Mild pain or soreness
- A small amount of bleeding
- Very rarely, infection

These will be explained before you sign the consent form.

How Do I Prepare?

- Tell your doctor if you take blood-thinning medicine (e.g. Warfarin, Pradaxa, high-dose aspirin)
- Bring someone to drive you home
- You can eat and drink as normal

During the Procedure

- Done in a clinic or laboratory outpatient setting, you will have the support of a staff member
- Sample is taken from the back of your hip
- The area is numbed with local anaesthetic

You may feel:

- Pressure
- A sharp pain for a few seconds
- A dull ache for a short time

After the Procedure

- A dressing will be placed on the site
- Keep the area dry for 24 hours
- Your hip may be sore for 1–2 days
- You may take Panadol if needed

Contact Your GP If You Have:

- Bleeding from the site
- Fever
- Redness, swelling, or increasing pain
- Results of your bone marrow biopsy take 5–7 days to complete.